

# 2022 FIRST QUARTERLY REPORT



CONGRESSWOMAN

**SUSIE LEE**

SERVING NEVADA'S 3RD DISTRICT





*Rep. Lee testifies at the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Member Hearing on the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)*

# Bringing Back Your Tax Dollars

Last year marked Rep. Lee's first year on the powerful House Appropriations Committee, and Rep. Lee was proud to announce her success on the Committee this quarter with [the passage of the FY2022 Government Funding Bill](#). This package included all 12 appropriations bills, which Rep. Lee had a direct hand in crafting through the Appropriations process and markups.

This included over \$9 million in Community Project Funding that will directly invest in southern Nevada projects including:

- \$2 million for the City of Henderson's Workforce Training Center
- \$950,000 to the hire 48 more social workers in Clark County School District
- \$3,655,000 for erosion control efforts with the Lower Las Vegas Wash
- \$975,000 for the Nevada STEM Co-Lab, to expand STEM education opportunities in Nevada through new programs and local partnerships
- \$1 million to upgrade systems at the Boulder City Wastewater Treatment Plant
- \$648,000 for Nevada State College School of Nursing

This Funding Bill includes other key provisions including:

- Funds to strengthen resources for veterans and military families, including \$13.2 billion for Mental Healthcare for our VA systems, \$224.7 million for Child Development Center projects, \$2.2 billion to support of programs to prevent veteran homelessness, and more
- Critical provisions to address the drought, protect public lands, and invest in clean energy, including \$25 million for the implementation of the Drought Contingency Plan in the Lower Colorado River Basin, an increase of \$11 million for solar energy "soft costs," \$25 million for the DoE's Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research, and more
- Investments in education, including an increase of \$1 billion for Title I grants, \$2.1 billion for career, technical and adult education, \$75 million for Full-Service Community Schools, and more
- Support for families, communities, and law enforcement, including \$3.9 billion in grants to state and local law enforcement, an increase of \$4 million for the Drug Free Communities Program, \$21.2 million for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Zero Suicide program, and more
- Programs that will cut costs, create jobs, and drive our nation's economic recovery and development forward, including \$60 million for the Rural Economic Development Direct Loans and Grants Program, an increase of \$60 million to expand access to capital for small- and minority- owned businesses, \$27.4 billion for Tenant-Based Rental Assistance, \$11 billion in funding for new affordable housing, critical health, safety, and maintenance improvements, and more

# Protecting Ukraine and Standing up to Putin

Since February 24, the world has watched Russian President Putin carry out a premeditated, unprovoked, and unjust assault on Ukraine. In Congress, Rep. Lee has been fighting to protect the Ukrainian people, stand up for democracy around the world, and hold Putin accountable for the atrocities he is causing in Ukraine.

Early on, Rep. Lee was a [vocal proponent of banning Russian energy imports and introduced bipartisan legislation](#) to ensure that the U.S does not participate in financing Putin's War on the Ukrainian people. Rep. Lee has simultaneously stood up for American consumers at the pump, calling on Congressional leadership to hold Big Oil companies accountable for unjustified price hikes at the pump. Her relentless calls for accountability helped bring about an [Energy and Commerce Committee Oversight hearing with six Big Oil executives](#).

In March, Rep. Lee also cast her vote in support of emergency funding for Ukraine, as part of the FY2022 Funding Bill that was signed into law in March. In total, this package included \$13.6 billion in emergency funding to support the Ukrainian people and defend democracy everywhere in the wake of Russia's unprovoked attack on Ukraine. This includes:

- Defense assistance, including more than \$3 billion for European Command operations mission support and \$650 million in funding towards the Foreign Military Funding Program
- Humanitarian assistance, including \$2.65 billion through USAID's International Disaster Assistance program and \$1.4 billion for Migration and Refugee Assistance
- Economic assistance, including nearly \$1.8 billion to flexibly respond to macroeconomic needs in Ukraine and \$25 million to the U.S. Agency for Global Media to combat disinformation
- And improved sanctions enforcement with funding for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and the Treasury

Rep. Lee is continuing to use her voice to stand with Ukraine and ensure the U.S. government is using every tool available to hold Putin accountable and defend democracy. Rep. Lee has repeatedly called for more military aid for Ukraine, in joining more than 40 of her colleagues in [advocating for sending more military equipment to secure Ukrainian skies](#), and in [endorsing the bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus' proposal](#) to send more defense aid broadly. Additionally, Rep. Lee introduced the Stop Russian GOLD Act, a bipartisan bill to prevent Russia's Central Bank from using its extensive gold reserves to fund its unprovoked war against Ukraine.

# Key Legislative Developments

As a lifelong education advocate, who worked hard to put herself through college with a combination of scholarships, loans, and part-time jobs, college affordability is personal for the Congresswoman. That's why [Rep. Lee was proud to join Rep. Sean Casten \(D-IL\) in introducing the Pell Grant Sustainability Act](#) in February, to ensure that federal resources for college students keep up with current costs. As the maximum Pell Grant now covers the smallest share of tuition ever, this legislation would index Pell Grants to inflation so that every student has the opportunity to pursue higher education.

Amid a cybersecurity workforce shortage that leaves our nation's cyberinfrastructure vulnerable, Rep. Lee introduced the bicameral and bipartisan [Cyber Ready Workforce Act with Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick \(R-PA\) and Senators Jacky Rosen \(D-NV\) and Marsha Blackburn \(R-TN\)](#). This legislation will direct the U.S. Department of Labor to award grants to increase access to apprenticeship programs in the fast-growing cybersecurity industry. Additionally, Rep. Lee fought to include this provision in the America COMPETES Act, which she voted to pass out of the House in February.

[Rep. Lee introduced the bipartisan Hire Student Veterans Act with Rep. Michelle Steel \(R-CA\)](#) to provide incentives for businesses to hire veterans and ease their transition back to civilian life. This legislation would provide a tax credit to businesses that hire part-time veterans who are using their VA-administered educational benefits and taking advantage of paid internships and other work opportunities while still in school.

As Russia continues its unprovoked attack against the people of Ukraine, Rep. Lee has been committed to cutting off Putin and his inner circle from every resource they have, including their gold reserves. In March, she joined a bipartisan group including Reps. Elissa Slotkin (D-MI), Mikie Sherrill (D-NJ), Peter Meijer (R-MI), Joe Wilson (R-SC), and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) in [introducing the Stop Russian GOLD Act](#) to prevent Russia's Central Bank from using its gold reserves to fund its brutal assault against Ukraine's democracy.



# Key Legislative Developments



*Rep. Lee reads to Charlotte Hill Elementary students with U.S. Education Secretary Miguel Cardona*



*Rep. Lee meets with student leaders and staff from Sierra Vista High School to discuss youth mental health*

**Rep. Lee joined Reps. Frank J. Mrvan (D-IN), Nancy Mace (R-SC), and Andrew Garbarino (R-NY) to introduce the bipartisan Strengthening VA Cybersecurity Act** in March to strengthen cybersecurity at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This legislation would protect our nation's veterans from cyber crime, require the VA to obtain an independent cybersecurity assessment of its most critical information systems, and require the VA to develop a timeline and budget to fix any weaknesses identified by the report.

After the pandemic further exacerbated longstanding inequities in the education system, **Rep. Lee introduced the bipartisan Communities Serving Schools Act** with Rep. Tony Gonzales (R-TX). This bipartisan legislation would provide grants to state and local education agencies for wrap-around services that assist students outside the classroom, including tutoring, after-school programs, college prep, nutrition, and mental health support.

Additionally, Rep. Lee is continuing to fight to move her legislative priorities through Congress and closer to becoming law. Notably, Rep. Lee's bipartisan Virtual Peer Support Act recently moved to the Energy and Commerce Committee for a hearing on common-sense mental health legislation. Additionally, Rep. Lee fought to secure provisions in the FY22 funding bill that closely mirror her bipartisan Telehealth Expansion Act, extending access to telehealth for millions of Americans.

# Delivering for Nevada's Third District

This quarter, Rep. Lee kept busy as she attended and hosted **over 50 events throughout southern Nevada**, including...

- A visit with [Education Secretary Dr. Michael Cardona at Charlotte Hill Elementary School](#) in Las Vegas to discuss the Keep Our Pact Act and the importance of fully funding Title I and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
- [A roundtable with Sierra Vista High School students and officials](#) discussing Rep. Lee's work to secure nearly \$1 million in Community Project Funding to hire additional social workers in Clark County School District to improve mental health services for students.
- [A tour of the Nevada State College School of Nursing](#) to highlight funding Rep. Lee's success in obtaining nearly \$650,000 for equipment to enhance curricular offerings and enhance patient care in southern Nevada hospitals.
- [A press conference with NV Energy](#), the office of Governor Steve Sisolak, the Nevada Department of Transportation, and IBEW to highlight funding for electric vehicle charging stations from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
- [A virtual roundtable with NARAL and Planned Parenthood](#) to commemorate the 49th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade and discuss the Women's Health Protection Act
- [An infrastructure telephone town hall](#) with Nevada Department of Transportation Director Kristina Swallow and Clark County Office of Traffic Safety Director Andrew Bennett to discuss how the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is delivering for Southern Nevada.
- [A visit to Nevada State Veterans Home](#) to drop off valentines handmade by constituents through Rep. Lee's Valentines for Veterans Program.
- A variety of events with Nevada stakeholders, including Pancakes and Politics with the Henderson Chamber of Commerce, a listening session with student veterans, a discussion with the Las Vegas Alliance of Black School Educators, and a Chinese New Year luncheon with the Asian Chamber of Commerce
- [A climate town hall with the Nevada Conservation League](#) to discuss Rep. Lee's leadership in the fight against the climate crisis.

# Constituent Success Stories

**Casework and constituent service has been a top priority for Rep. Lee** ever since she became a Member of Congress. Over this past quarter, she's managed to...

- Recover approximately **\$2,438,000** for constituents
- Deliver over **\$22,000,000** in NV-03 Federal Grant Assistance
- Close over **240 cases** for constituents who requested assistance with a federal agency
- Respond to approximately **420 constituent requests** for assistance
- Respond to over **7,700 emails, calls, and letters** regarding legislation

"I requested an SBA EIDL increase to help keep my business afloat. However, I was not able to get it as fast as I needed to. I sent the SBA the necessary forms, but did not receive updates for months... Rep. Lee's office escalated my case quickly and ensured that it was being handled by a high-priority team. After some more back and forth, my increase was completely funded. **I couldn't have had my case resolved without the help of Rep. Lee's office.**" - Justin McZeal

"I lost almost everything in the hurricane, leaving what was once my home with just a couple of suitcases of belongings. I qualified for federal housing assistance but wasn't making progress... After over three months of spinning my wheels, I reached out to Susie's office for help. I had results within about 2 weeks from submitting her online form. **I am so thankful to Susie and her staff for helping me obtain FEMA housing assistance as I piece my new life together in Nevada.**"

"I was assigned to a carrier squadron during the Vietnam War. During our deployments, we were exposed to Agent Orange, which led me to be diagnosed with several disabilities. I applied for Agent Orange disability benefits through the VA over two years ago but never received a response. When I contacted Rep. Susie Lee's office, I was impressed with the timeliness with which the office addressed the issue. I received an almost immediate response from the VA, which was a relief after waiting for so long. **Rep. Lee's office is doing exactly what I expect any elected official to do—help the people they represent.**" - William Knobloch

*Need help with a federal agency? Contact my office at [susielee.house.gov](https://susielee.house.gov)*





*Rep. Lee greets students during Nevada Reading Week celebrations at the Coral Academy of Science Las Vegas*





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